

Segment 2 - Brigham City to Deweyville

General Description

The trail segment from Brigham City to Deweyville starts at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon and travels north along the western foothills of the Wellsville Mountains and past Deweyville approximately 3 miles (see maps 2, 3, and 4 in Appendix G). The primary views along this segment will consist of the Bear River Valley and the Cache National Forest. The trail has the opportunity to follow a number of existing rights-of-way, including the PacifiCorp powerline corridor. The existing trail system policy that Brigham City and Box Elder county have developed will maximize links to the proposed NBST. The potential of having the trail connect recreational users to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and visitors center is a real possibility. The land ownership along this segment is a mixture of public and private lands, with the majority of this trail segment following existing rights-of-way.

Environmental Description

Slope

The foothill area along this segment is narrow with a mountainous, rocky scarp beginning at approximately 4,400 feet elevation. The foothill area below this is a moderate slope that varies in width but is very narrow adjacent to community-developed areas and has a western aspect. The Wellsville Mountain Range has the steepest rise to run ratio in North America.

Hydrology

The NBST crosses Box Elder Creek and a water pipeline at the mouth of Kotter Canyon. The Hammond East Branch Canal is the most prevalent canal along this segment and starts near the mouth of Antimony Canyon traveling north through Honeyville. A smaller North String Canal ditch originating from Rees Spring is located to the west of the proposed trail alignment. A dozen intermittent streams that drain the Wellsville Mountains traverse this segment. There are also a number of water tanks, springs, and ponds



that are adjacent to the proposed trail. The Acme and Honeyville culinary drinking water sources are both springs located east of Honeyville.

Wildlife

One mile past Crystal Hot Springs, the corridor enters the Malad/Bear River Riparian Corridor area as mapped by the UDWR. The proposed trail follows this feature for approximately 4.5 miles.

Geology

The Wasatch Fault runs parallel to the foothills along the entire segment. The trail will need to cross a landslide area north of Box Elder Canyon that is approximately 0.25-mile wide.

Alternative A - PacifiCorp Powerline Corridor (18.9 Miles)

This alternative will follow the PacifiCorp powerline corridor the entire length of the segment to Honeyville. It will connect to the southern segment of the trail at the Highway 89 road crossing near the area planned for a Brigham City trailhead. It will follow the toe of the slope east of development in Brigham City, because of the area's steep topography, for approximately 1.5 miles. The trail then intersects the powerline east of Rees Springs and follows the powerline for the remainder of the segment past Honeyville (approximately 14 miles).

Ownership

Land ownership along this trail alternative is generally private, with short crossings of public lands. A small parcel at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon is owned by Brigham City and is planned for a future trailhead. A 0.5-mile segment crosses the Wasatch-Cache National Forest directly east of Honeyville. Ownership along the PacifiCorp powerline corridor is assumed to be private, with PacifiCorp owning an easement for the powerline to cross these private lands. It is possible that there are places where PacifiCorp has ownership of the powerline corridor lands. Research into PacifiCorp's easement and ownership issues along this segment will need to be conducted (see the Working with Utilities section in Chapter 4).

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The PacifiCorp powerline corridor easement may facilitate easier trail development because of the ability for easement access and reduced property ownership issues.
- ❖ The topography of the area contains few obstacles and is generally very good for trail development.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ Property issues include the ability to use the powerline corridor easements for trail development

Trailheads

- ❖ Brigham City is planning a trailhead on the east side of Box Elder Canyon on a piece of donated land that is now a gravel pit.
- ❖ Honeyville City Park located on the east side of Honeyville, Utah.
- ❖ Deweyville City Park located on the east bench of Deweyville, Utah.

Alignment Alternative B - Hammond East Branch Canal (20.4 Miles)

This trail alternative primarily follows the Hammond East Branch Canal with short portions following the powerline corridor. It will connect to the southern segment of the trail at the Highway 89 road crossing near the area planned for a Brigham City trailhead. It will follow the toe of the slope east of development in Brigham City, because of the area's steep topography, for approximately 1.5 miles. The trail will then intersect the powerline east of Rees Springs and follow the powerline to its intersection with the Hammond East Branch Canal at Antimony Canyon. The trail would then follow the canal corridor to Deweyville. From Deweyville, the trail follows a jeep road for approximately 1.5 miles to the intersection of the powerline corridor. The trail follows the powerline corridor to the end of the segment (approximately 2 miles).

Ownership

Land ownership along this trail alternative is generally private. A small parcel at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon is owned by Brigham City and is planned for a future trailhead. Ownership along the canal corridor is private, with the canal company owning an easement for the canal to cross these private lands.

Trail Development Opportunities

- ❖ The canal corridor has a road that would readily function as a trail with very little trail construction required.
- ❖ The canal corridor contours the foothills relatively close to the communities along the trail, thus providing easy trail access for residents.
- ❖ The topography provides for a relatively flat trail that would be easily negotiated by many trail users.
- ❖ No crossing of roads or major landscape features is required.

Trail Development Constraints

- ❖ Possible opposition from the Hammond East Branch Canal Company resulting from liability issues.
- ❖ Possible opposition from private property owners along the canal.

Trailheads

See Alternative A for trailhead descriptions.

Other Trail Alignment Opportunities

Other trail route alternative opportunities that are possible along this segment consist of existing fire/four-wheel drive roads that contour the foothills above Honeyville and Deweyville. These established roads could be used to connect various segments of both Alternatives A and B to the north and south. These roads cross the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for approximately 0.5 mile and also cross the Wellsville



Wilderness Area at three points. The wilderness sections are approximately 0.2 mile total and could easily be avoided by constructing a link trail outside of the wilderness boundary.

Potential Trail Linkages

There are several potential trail links that could be made along this segment. These include:

- ❖ the Coldwater Canyon Trail that crosses the Wellsville Mountains (this trail is in the Wellsville Wilderness Area and is not open to bicycles),
- ❖ the Crystal Hot Springs recreation area,
- ❖ the Bear River area,
- ❖ the Fort Call Historical Monument, and
- ❖ linking to the trails planned for Brigham City at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon.

